



---

**Core to College Curriculum Redesign Project**  
**Convening Summary**  
**September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Background**

Core to College is a multi-state grant initiative designed to promote strong collaboration between higher education and the K-12 sectors in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and aligned assessments. In twelve grantee states – Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, and Washington – Core to College is helping states drive higher levels of alignment and collaboration to achieve greater college readiness with financial resources, technical assistance and evaluation support.

In Tennessee, the Core to College grant includes two primary goals:

1. Development of a model curriculum for first-year college courses in Mathematics and English/Language (ELA) Arts fully aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
2. Convening Core to College Councils for both K-12 and higher education faculty and leaders, dually focused on expanding Common Core knowledge and ensuring the state post-secondary community fully accepts the PARCC assessment as the placement instrument for first-time freshman in credit-bearing courses.

The September 2013 meeting focused primarily on assessing what progress had been made since the previous meeting, completing operational tasks relative to module development, and ensuring that a viable timeline is in place to guide work throughout the remainder of 2013.

**Agenda**

10:00 – 10:30 Greetings and Review of the Action Plan Objectives

10:30 – 12:00 Breakout Sessions

Math: Doug Sovde, Achieve, Inc.

English: Wendi Anderson, Achieve, Inc.

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch / PARCC Updates

12:30 – 1:45 Breakout Sessions

Math: Doug Sovde, Achieve, Inc.

English: Wendi Anderson, Achieve, Inc.

1:45 – 2:00 Next Steps

## Summary of Discussion and Next Steps:

### English/Language Arts:

- Finalized learning outcomes for CCSS aligned version of English 1010: Expository Writing.
- Developed outline of modules for CCSS aligned version of English 1010.
- Continued development of annotated syllabus
- Plans for Next Steps:
  - By November 1<sup>st</sup>:
    - Finish the development of the English 1010 modules.
    - Finalize the sections of the English 1010 Course Profile.
    - Obtain feedback from Wendi Anderson at Achieve on all documents.
    - Distribute English materials to external evaluators for review.
  - November 25<sup>th</sup>:
    - Revise materials based on feedback from evaluators.
    - Finalize selection of Pilot sites and plan training for faculty.
  - Spring 2014:
    - Pilot English 1010

### Math:

- Reviewed syllabus/course profile for College Algebra.
- Reviewed math tasks/supplementary materials.
- Determined next steps.
  - October:
    - Present current tasks/syllabus structure at the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association annual conference to collect feedback on process and products.
  - November:
    - Editing/finalizing syllabus and instructional tasks with “coversheet” based on feedback from Achieve, Inc.
    - Share revised versions at Tennessee Chairs of the Colleges of Mathematics (TCCM) meeting (external evaluators).
  - December:
    - Edit syllabus and instructional tasks based on feedback from TCCM meeting in November
    - Identify and train faculty willing to pilot tasks during the spring semester.
  - January:
    - Pilot tasks/syllabus
    - Develop feedback tool for the piloted tasks.

## Meeting Participants

### Tennessee Higher Education Commission

Betty Dandridge-Johnson, *Executive Director of Academic Affairs, THEC*  
Melissa Stugart, *Core to College Director, THEC*

[betty.dandridge.johnson@tn.gov](mailto:betty.dandridge.johnson@tn.gov)  
[melissa.stugart@tn.gov](mailto:melissa.stugart@tn.gov)

### English/Language Arts Team

Endora Feick, *Nashville State Community College*  
Lauren Ingraham, *University of Tennessee Chattanooga*  
Phil Waldrup, *Middle Tennessee State University*

[endora.feick@nsc.edu](mailto:endora.feick@nsc.edu)  
[lauren-ingraham@utc.edu](mailto:lauren-ingraham@utc.edu)  
[phillip.waldrup@mtsu.edu](mailto:phillip.waldrup@mtsu.edu)

### Math Team

Holly Anthony, *Tennessee Tech University*  
Stephanie Kolitsch, *University of Tennessee Martin*  
Doug Vinson, *Pellissippi State Community College*

[hanthony@tntech.edu](mailto:hanthony@tntech.edu)  
[styler@utm.edu](mailto:styler@utm.edu)  
[dvinson@pscc.edu](mailto:dvinson@pscc.edu)

### Consultant Team

#### Wendi Anderson, *Achieve*

[wanderson@achieve.org](mailto:wanderson@achieve.org)

Wendi Anderson is the Senior Associate in English Language Arts/literacy. Wendi has over 17 years of experience in ELA education and assessment. Prior to joining Achieve, Wendi served as the Director for PARCC/Innovative Assessment for the Arizona Department of Education. Part of her duties with ADE included serving as a PARCC State Lead and as a member of PARCC's ELA Operational Working Group.

Wendi spent nine years working on the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS). Her involvement with AIMS included item development, item content and bias review, passage content and bias review, standards setting, test form development, and the development of a holistic writing rubric.

Wendi also spent nine years working as a contract assessment item and passage writer for CTB McGraw-Hill. Wendi has also worked as English Department Chair and classroom teacher at the junior high and high school level. She served on her district's Curriculum Council and as a member of the East Valley Consortium, a group of districts and schools working collaboratively on the implementation of the Common Core Standards. She was also one of

#### Doug Sovde, *Achieve*

[dsovde@achieve.org](mailto:dsovde@achieve.org)

Doug works for Achieve as Director, PARCC Content and Instructional Supports. While at Achieve, Doug has worked with a dozen states to increase the rigor of their standards and align their standards and assessments. Recently, he participated as a member of the writing team of the Common Core State Standards, having principal responsibility for creating Appendix A to the mathematics standards, also known as the Model Course Pathways in Mathematics.

Prior to joining Achieve, Doug spent 12 years in the Bellevue, Washington Public Schools as a teacher, an assistant principal and a principal. As a mathematics teacher, Doug taught courses from pre-algebra to AP Calculus BC and participated in district-wide curriculum development. He later became an assistant principal at Bellevue High School and Sammamish High School, where he supervised the mathematics departments and supported mathematics curriculum development. In 2006, Doug became the principal of Chinook Middle School, where he managed the development of new curriculum in mathematics, science, and social studies at the school level.